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McManus Reassures Local Governments of Summer 2003 State Land Payments

(LANSING) – State Senator Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau, today reassured local governments that payments-in-lieu of taxes will be appropriated to make up for the \$1.5 million Department of Natural Resources (DNR) summer 2003 tax shortfall.

“Today we took the appropriate steps to ensure that local governments will receive their summer 2003 payments as scheduled,” McManus said. “This is a complicated issue and I look forward to working with all involved parties to seek a compromise solution for the future, however, I believe that the state is obligated to fulfill its current commitment to our local governments.”

The DNR is facing a \$1.5 million summer 2003 tax payment shortage for all state land under the payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) obligation. Because of the shortage, local governments were concerned by the prospect of not receiving those funds from the state.

Recognizing the importance of those funds, Senator McManus this week in the Senate Appropriations Committee assured local governments that the summer payment-in-lieu of taxes would be made thanks to an amendment inserted in the supplemental budget.

“I understand the importance of those funds and how critical they are to local governments, and I am very pleased to announce today that the state’s obligation will be met,” McManus concluded.

The legislation passed the state Senate today and awaits consideration in the House.